



Meeting Minutes of Highland District Council

July 20, 2017 7:00 p.m.

1978 Ford Parkway

St. Paul MN 55116

Highland Park Community Center

Email: info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org

Building a More Vibrant, Welcoming, and Safe Neighborhood

Board members in attendance: Kevin Gallatin, Bob Whitehead, Gary Fischbach, Mike Lindsay, Gary Thompson, Nate Hood, Howard Miller, Brandon Long, Sally Bauer, Amanda Willis; Seated Alternates: Ken Jopp, Colleen Zuro-White.

Members Absent: Frank Jossi, Peter Armstrong, Joe Kolar, Jack Dobier, Darcy Tinnes, Anne Langford, Kathy Soderberg, Amy Salmela.

Others present: Sarah Burger, Shad, and Iris from Neighborhood House; Melanie McMahon.

Meeting was called to order at: 7:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda for the meeting was reviewed. Motion to approve. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Previous Minutes Previous meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Elect Grid 5 Director: Election held for open Grid 5 director seat. Amanda Willis was nominated and unanimously elected by 3 members of Grid 5.

Public Comment: No comments.

Neighborhood House:

- 120th anniversary – founded by the women of Mount Zion Temple
 - A settlement house for Russian Jews escaping
 - Now helping service many other immigrant groups
 - Also have expanded to all people of low income
 - Helping in crises management
 - Housing, food support, family literacy, adult education, college access, financial literacy coaching and training and more
 - Working with families on lifelong learning
 - 8 locations in 6 different neighborhoods
 - One location is Sibley Manor building
- Serve 15,00 people now
- Goal is to become a holistic services hub in Highland
 - Expand and integrate programs in Highland to provide services at a similar quality level to services provided on the West Side
 - Partnering with JCC, West 7th Community Center to avoid duplication services
 - Would like to secure facilities that allow for integrated programming
 - Want to expand into pre-school services – 42% of children that they serve are not enrolled currently
- Research project
 - Canvassing to record needs in the community
 - Some difficulty with translations

- Want to do more community events so folks feel more comfortable
- Want to be able to report back in October and November on what they find
- Want to make sure before finding a location they want to know what the community wants and needs
- Ultimately a 3-5 year project, want to possibly have a building on W 7th where community members can find all of their services if they find the community wants and needs it

Treasurer's Report was delivered by Bob Whitehead. Lost money on Tour De Highland due to weather (-\$700), made money (4,779) on home improvement fair – vendors still love our fair, maybe have a senior focus next year to increase vendor participation, which has slackened in recent years.

Executive Director Report: was delivered by Kathy Carruth

- Peter Meyers is still working the Ford Documentary – can't do the Legacy Grant he wanted, partnering with TPT and doing other interviews for other Grants
 - Peter has taken in \$30K so far
- 2016 grant for artist (\$10K) artist is working on designs right now, going to have a community meeting about this
 - Starbucks, Target, etc need to approve whatever goes on the corner according to their lease
 - Fall print newsletter is starting – Kathy has asked chairs, board president and councilmember for articles
 - Music at the pool house was very successful
 - We can serve beer and wine there next year
 - Jazzed about Highland also successful – maybe close down Cleveland for a couple of blocks sometime for this
 - Snelling Ave median project – we may not be getting installed this year, may not be until 2018
 - Ford Parkway – medians are horrible again, weeds are going to get cut, someone laid down random grass seed..., it will be seeded by the city
 - “Pork chop” island at St. Paul Ave and Cleveland was supposed to be converted to grass, but when Ramsey County peeled off pavement there was concrete below it so they couldn't put dirt and grass down. Switched to concrete; we may get planters and decorate it.
 - Monday Sep 18th for HDC board retreat – 3 hour session, 5:30pm-8:30pm,
 - Sept 7th Board meeting –dress nicely for website photos

Executive Committee Report

- \$100 for Meat raffle (previously approved) for Highland Fest
- Changing our financial signers at Highland Bank
 - Bob and Sally have been approved as the new signers

Standing Committee Reports

- **Community Engagement Committee**
 - HPCC play area - third meeting looking at options
 - Letting community guide the process
 - AARP Grant for livable communities
 - Exercise equipment in the park for more cross generational area
 - Submitted grant for \$50K

- November 1st, would need to implement the equipment but the area won't be done until Spring, hopefully be ready by next summer
 - Children playground will be around \$500K
 - Big part of budget would be removal of existing structures
 - Highland Fest
 - Better engagement than last year but really hot and not on main drag so lower turn out
 - Parklet was well received – will be up for 6 weeks
- **Transportation**
 - People are walking and biking around because it's hot out
 - Because of this folks are more aware of lack of infrastructure and safety
 - Fairview south of Ford, neighborhood put in request for a new crosswalks striped
 - Three cross walks striped south of Ford on Fairview now
 - Cretin doesn't have a lot of safe cross walks
 - People are proposing more striped crosswalks
 - To make it really safe we would need to look at the whole street as a whole – unlike Fairview
 - Need to figure out what the process for triaging the requests for more safe crosswalks
 - Riverview Corridor has now been narrowed down to either BRT or street car
 - Just getting presentations at the moment haven't had a lot of say so far
 - CP Rail spur study is underway
 - One public open house so far only
 - People seemed to like the idea of rails to trail bike pedestrian network
 - Support for using it as a rail line still seemed split
 - Thus far activity is in line with the HDC's resolution.
- **Community Development Committee**
 - Two visits from the city for short term rental licensing – AirBnB, VRBO
 - Determining what is a family, how many people can stay in a unit
 - Planning on charging \$7K dollars per year for licensing
 - In September determinations will be sent to city council
 - Complaints coming from bed and breakfast people who have more regulations than they do (AirBnB)
 - Entire buildings have turned over into short term rental instead of long term rentals because of AirBnB
 - If you're just renting and not occupying you have more regulations
 - Other plan that was discussed 639 Cleveland (single story building across from St. Kates) will be torn down and rebuilt as a triplex
 - Up to four tenants per unit
 - Likely to break ground this fall and be open this spring – tearing down the single family home which housed a business to make room for this

City Council Report:

- August 9th Community Meeting for Riverview Corridor Gloria Day – 5pm-7pm
- Mayor has proposed street maintenance service fund to replace the right of way program
 - Has been having public meetings, one was held at Highland Community Center
 - Will be in Mayor's budget
- Ford Site – Planning Commission had public hearing, sent it back to committee – committee voted in favor, now goes to full commission
 - July 28th full Planning Commission vote on Ford Site
- Organized trash collection had a public hearing
 - Have now decided to keep the record open for the next week for more people to respond – next Wednesday the 26th
 - If this doesn't work they may open up the bidding process
- Resolution to ask the planning commission to ask PED to ask for a design standard/anti-teardown overlay in Tangletown coming before council next week

Business Representative Reports:

- **West 7th Business Association Update:** No members present to provide update.
- **HBA update:** None

D15 Update: Leaving survey up till August 31st – 270 responses so far

Adjourned at 8:45pm